

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PINT, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA
TO:EA - MR. HOLBROOKE FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.
1. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR ON KOREA (UNCLASSIFIED) -
DAVID BLAKEMORE ATTENDED THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR
ON KOREA FEBRUARY 17 TO HEAR A PAPER BY UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON PROFESSOR BRUCE CUMMINGS ON U.S./CHINA/KOREA
RELATIONS AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S KOREA POLICY.
THE PAPER MAKES AN INTERESTING ATTEMPT TO LOOK AT THE
GEOPOLITICAL EQUATION ON THE PENINSULA FROM THE NORTH
KOREAN POINT OF VIEW, BUT IT AND THE DISCUSSION REACHED
SOME PREDICTABLE ACADEMIC CONCLUSIONS: WE SHOULD BE
TALKING TO THE NORTH, WE SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW WITHOUT
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SEEKING CONCESSIONS FROM THE NORTH, AND WE HAVE GIVEN
THE ROKG A VIRTUAL VETO OVER OUR KOREA POLICY.

2. SOVIET INTEREST IN PROGRESS ON THE KOREA QUESTION
(UNCLASSIFIED) - IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF PROBLEMS OF THE
FAR EAST THE SOVIETS HAVE PUBLISHED AN ANALYSIS OF THE
SITUATION IN KOREA WHICH MAY BE A SIGN OF FLEXIBILITY.

THE AUTHOR, V.T. KAPUSTIN DISCUSSES RALPH CLOUGH'S PROPOSALS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA, LISTING AS MAJOR ELEMENTS (A) THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES AND

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, (B) RETENTION OF U.S. AIR FORCE UNITS IN THE ROK, (C) PROGRESS IN BILATERAL NORTH-SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS, (D) RECOGNITION OF BOTH KOREAS BY THE FOUR LARGEST POWERS (U.S., JAPAN, USSR AND THE PRC) AND (E) ADMISSION OF BOTH KOREAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. KAPUSTIN SAYS THAT THIS IS, IN EFFECT, THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN FOR KOREA ON WHICH INITIAL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. HE CONCLUDES THAT HIS ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SITUATION IS COMPLEX, BUT THAT IT OFFERS "CERTAIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SEARCH FOR ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES IN THE INTERESTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE, WITH CONSIDERATION FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE LARGEST POWERS IN THE REGION: THE U.S., JAPAN, THE PRC AND THE USSR." WE EXPECT THAT IF THE NORTH KOREANS FOCUS ON THIS GENTLE NUDGE FROM THE SOVIET SIDE IT WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED. THE SOVIETS HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ONCE BEFORE ON CLOUGH'S PROPOSALS, IN THE AUTHORITATIVE USA JOURNAL.

3. MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS ISSUE OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) - ALL BUT TWO OF THE GROUP OF FORMER DEFENDANTS IN THE MYONGDONG CASE HAVE WRITTEN AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER CRITICAL OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. SO FAR, THE ROKG HAS NOT REACTED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LETTER OTHER THAN PICKING UP ONE OF THE SIGNERS FOR QUESTIONING. WE HAVE STATED THAT WE STAND BEHIND OUR REPORT AS A CAREFUL, REASONED JUDGMENT OF THE CONDITIONS IN THE ROK AND WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE LETTER. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE ROKG IS PREPARED TO LET THE ISSUE LIE, BARRING SOME ADDITIONAL PROVOCATION BY THE MYONGDONG GROUP. VANCE

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